

There has been a high level of interest regarding ITA's petition to coordinate former Power, Railroad and Auto Emergency channels below 512 MHz. ITA claims it should be able to coordinate all frequencies and can represent all licensees; we do not believe that to be true.

There are approximately 1000 electrical cooperatives across the country. My guess is there are at least twice that many electrical municipalities and about 120 Investor Owned Electric utilities. The reality of these entities is that they are responsible for delivering electrical power/energy to every square foot of this great country of ours. This power is the FOUNDATION OF ALL OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES such as police, fire, EMS, hospitals, the military and etc. Without electricity things become very unpleasant and very difficult very quickly.

Add to the communications needs of the electrical industry the thousands of police, fire and emergency response units, and there is NO DOUBT that there is a serious need for managed coordination/availability of communications systems.

The good news? Most of these entities have very little need to talk with/to each other. This is good as it means we can have discreet systems, which reduce the opportunity of overlap, loading and interference issues.

UTC has an extended background in working with utilities. As such it understands the needs of these organizations. It would not be in the best interest to have another organization become involved or have such responsibility transferred to a new organization.

It also would be in the financial best interest of the general public if these critical organizations would be allowed to keep what they have instead of being pushed around in the frequency market place as unwanted step children. There seems to be a general attitude that either what these organizations do is not vital to the well being of the public OR that we can afford to change, for the convenience and well being of profit making entities! I realize the American dream is to make as much money as possible, but I can assure you from personal experience, the Investor Owned, Municipal and Cooperative electric companies in this country do NOT have lots of extra money to spend. And from what I can tell, neither do the police and fire agencies.